Ministry of
Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

2017/18 – 2019/20
SERVICE PLAN

February 2017

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Minister
Accountability Statement

The *Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation 2017/18 - 2019/20 Service Plan* was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

Honourable John Rustad
Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

February 6, 2017

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Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation leads the Province of British Columbia's reconciliation efforts with First Nations and Aboriginal peoples[1]. Partnerships, enhanced relationships and engagement create opportunities to collaborate on building a strong economy and a secure tomorrow so that all British Columbians, including First Nations and Aboriginal peoples, are able to pursue their social and economic goals. Reconciliation can take many forms, depending on the priorities of each community, so the Ministry uses different means to pursue reconciliation by negotiating and implementing agreements and other initiatives with First Nations and Aboriginal peoples. Treaties, agreements, partnerships and other reconciliation initiatives are important tools for government and First Nations to establish negotiated relationships that contribute to prosperous and resilient communities, where social, cultural and economic imperatives are integrated. The Ministry's work includes co-ordinating reconciliation efforts across government, collaborating with stakeholders to build support for reconciliation, and understanding and fostering the opportunities and identified goals of First Nations and Aboriginal peoples.

The ministry is also responsible for the First Peoples' Cultural Council, a provincial Crown Corporation formed by the Government of British Columbia in 1990 to administer the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Program. British Columbia is the only province in Canada that has established a Crown Corporation that leads First Nations' heritage, language, culture and arts initiatives. For information about FPCC, visit their website at www.fpcc.ca.

[1] Canada's Aboriginal population is distinct and diverse. The Constitution Act recognizes the Aboriginal peoples of Canada as the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada. "First Nation" is the generally preferred term for Indian peoples of Canada. The term, Aboriginal as used throughout this document, includes all people of Aboriginal ancestry, including First Nations, Métis and Inuit. The term "communities" means the diversity of Aboriginal communities as defined by Aboriginal people and includes descriptions such as urban, rural, metropolitan, land-based and reserve. The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation works with all Aboriginal peoples wherever they may live in British Columbia.

Strategic Direction and Context

Strategic Direction

The *BC Jobs Plan* continues to transform British Columbia's evolving economy through mining, natural gas, pipeline, transportation infrastructure, clean energy and other major development opportunities. To enable these opportunities, manage the land base, and recognize Aboriginal rights, the B.C. Government works directly with First Nations and enters into agreements that support participation in financial benefits, skills training, and environmental stewardship projects resulting from economic activity. Through partnerships and positive relationships, the Province of British Columbia and First Nations are advancing innovative and effective ways to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal people in B.C. and achieve long-term reconciliation.

Recognizing the importance of working together to create a strong economy and secure tomorrow, the Minister's Mandate Letter outlines the crucial factors to meeting its purpose.

The Ministry will:

- Balance the ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia.
- Continue to work with B.C. First Nations who are in the Treaty Process and who have an opportunity to secure a treaty with British Columbia and Canada to provide all parties with economic benefit and long lasting security.
- Continue to work with the Tsilhqot'in National Government to implement the Letter of Understanding signed with the Province of British Columbia.
- Work with the B.C. Treaty Commission Principals to develop a more inclusive approach to the BC Treaty Process.
- Work with B.C. First Nations that participate in and benefit from natural gas extraction, pipelines or LNG facilities to ensure they are provided with the ability to participate in this generational opportunity.
- Continue to implement our commitment to BC First Nations to expand the number of non-treaty agreements to further economic development opportunities that benefit both British Columbia and First Nations.
- Work with BC First Nations to ensure they continue to participate in and benefit from the Clean Energy Standing Offer by BC Hydro through the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund.
- Work with BC Hydro to ensure First Nations have the ability to participate in economic development opportunities arising from the construction of Site C dam.
- Work with the Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training to increase the number of First Nations participating in apprenticeship and skills-training programs to ensure economic prosperity includes First Nations members.
- Work with the Ministry of Energy and Mines on the Mining Dialogue with First Nations that was committed following the Mount Polley Mine tailings pond collapse.
- As Minister, work with your colleagues to host the annual meeting between First Nations leaders and the Provincial Government.

- Work with the Ministries of Justice, Health and Children and Family Development to continue to implement Violence Free BC.

In alignment with the Taxpayer Accountability Principles, the Ministry is focused on fulfilling its mandate while upholding a culture of cost-consciousness and transparency. The Ministry supports First Nations and Aboriginal peoples becoming full partners in the economic, political and social future of this province.

The Ministry is also committed to work with partner ministries on engagement and processes that address social determinants of health in Aboriginal communities. The Ministry will support this work through:

- Provincial and ongoing community-based dialogue on the root causes and prevention of violence against Indigenous women and girls;
- Considering social determinants of health in the development and implementation of government-to-government agreements; and
- Supporting First Nation communities to revitalize their traditional languages and culture in collaboration with the First Peoples' Cultural Council.

As the province has the fourth largest Métis population in Canada, the Ministry will support and advance collaboration with the Métis community through the leadership of the Parliamentary Secretary for Métis Relations.

Every order of government shares the responsibility to pursue reconciliation. Continuing productive relationships with the federal government, local governments, stakeholders and other partners are necessary to realize the promise and opportunities of reconciliation, address long-standing and complex issues, and promote British Columbia's interests nationally.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

The B.C. Government's economic reconciliation goals incorporate a broad range of actions. The Ministry's role emphasizes co-ordination of government's reconciliation priorities and collaboration with partner agencies, governments and organizations. Closing social and economic gaps between Aboriginal people and other British Columbians requires the full engagement of First Nations in economic development and action to support prosperous and healthy communities where social, economic and cultural values are united. This plan reflects this important coordination and performance measures that capture the effect and outcomes of provincial investments towards reconciliation with First Nations and Aboriginal peoples.

Goal 1: Continue to create avenues for improved economic and social outcomes for Aboriginal peoples in British Columbia.

Objective 1.1: Create opportunities for improved Aboriginal participation in the economy and increased certainty for development.

Strategies

- In collaboration with natural resource sector ministries, negotiate and implement agreements with First Nations that create economic opportunities and support government to effectively undertake land management.
- Directly engage with business and industry to support First Nations' participation in resource and economic development opportunities.
- Support First Nations' access to land and resource tenures.
- Manage the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund and lead negotiations of carbon offset-sharing arrangements with First Nations.

Performance Measure 1: Revenue Sharing Agreements

Performance Measure	2016/17 Forecast	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target
Number of new completed revenue sharing agreements.	4	4	4	4

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Discussion

British Columbia continues to lead the country in resource revenue and benefits sharing with First Nations. As the mining, tourism and oil and gas sectors grow and attract investment and jobs, the Province is committed to share revenue with First Nations that are potentially impacted by resource development in their traditional territories. Revenue sharing agreements provide economic opportunity and process certainty for the Province, First Nations and industry to position projects for success. Economic and community development agreements are negotiated on projects such as major new mines, mine expansions and tourism initiatives such as resort developments. This performance measure represents the number of active negotiations and potential projects that meet eligibility. These agreements are initiated on a case-by-case basis and depend on external factors such as proponent timelines. This performance measure reflects the ministry's existing capacity to maintain the current rate of achievement based on the complex nature of negotiations and the implementation of agreements.

Performance Measure 2: Clean Energy business fund agreements

Performance Measure	2016/17 Forecast	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target
First Nation Clean Energy Business Fund - Number of new FNCEBF Agreements anticipated to be signed each fiscal year	25	25	25	25

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Discussion

The performance measure addresses economic and social outcomes with First Nations in BC. Clean energy business fund agreements include the following:

- Capacity development funding to support First Nations to undertake activities such as feasibility studies or to engage with proponents of clean energy projects;
- Equity funding to qualifying First Nations to help acquire ownership in clean energy projects or assist in the undertaking of their own community clean energy or energy efficiency projects;
- Revenue sharing from eligible clean energy projects based on net-new incremental revenues to government derived from water rentals, land rents and eventually wind participation rents; and
- Targeted funding to off-grid remote First Nation communities to reduce reliance on non-renewable generated power.

This performance measure reflects the ministry's existing capacity to maintain the current rate of achievement based on the complex nature of negotiations.

Performance Measure 3: Liquefied natural gas benefit agreements

Performance Measure	2016/17 Forecast[1]	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target
Number of completed liquefied natural gas benefit agreements, which includes agreements for pipelines and facilities.	65	75	80	83

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

[1] This is a cumulative total

Discussion

The Ministry employs a comprehensive approach to partner with First Nations that may be impacted by natural gas development, pipelines or liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities to ensure they are provided with the ability to be a part of the opportunities associated with this sector through benefit agreements, skills development training and environmental stewardship projects.

Performance Measure 4: Forest Consultation and revenue sharing agreements

Performance Measure	2016/17 Forecast[1]	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target
Number of completed agreements under the Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement (FCRSA) program.	130	132	134	134

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

[1] This is a cumulative total which includes FCRSAs that were signed in previous years and represents net number of agreements (not renewals).

Discussion

Forest consultation and revenue sharing agreements share forestry revenues with First Nations based on forest activity in their traditional territories. Forest consultation and revenue sharing agreements directly support the forest sector, jobs and economy by streamlining consultation with First Nations through negotiated consultation protocols and commitments by First Nations that improve stability on the land base.

Objective 1.2: Engage First Nations and Aboriginal peoples early to ensure they have opportunities to participate in, and be involved with initiatives that affect their communities.

Strategies

- Negotiate and implement reconciliation agreements with First Nations, which contribute to improved social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples.
- Proactively and meaningfully engage stakeholders, key partners and the public to build support for reconciliation efforts.
- Continue to build effective relationships with industry and industry associations which includes providing advice, guidance and direction to industry when engaging with First Nations and Aboriginal peoples.
- Incorporate social and economic benefits into negotiations with First Nations.

Performance Measure 5: Strategic Agreements

Performance Measure	2016/17 Forecast	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target
Number of new agreements that support strategic engagement with First Nations, including reconciliation agreements, and strategic engagement agreements.	7	7	7	7

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Discussion

Advancing reconciliation through government-to-government relationships may take the form of agreements that represent partnerships at the community level and focus on ensuring First Nations benefit from and participate in economic opportunities and meaningful engagement processes. While they vary in complexity, these models set up an agreed-upon process between the Province and a First Nation and how they will work together. Specific elements of each agreement are flexible, depending on the parties' objectives, local needs, and relationship history. Often, these agreements recognize that land management and resource use are of key priority for many First Nations. This performance measure reflects the ministry's existing capacity to maintain the current rate of achievement based on the complex nature of negotiations and the implementation of agreements.

Objective 1.3: Work with Aboriginal peoples to enhance and build capacity in Aboriginal communities, governments and organizations.

Strategies

- Engage provincial ministries, Aboriginal partners and the federal and local governments to increase and improve employment outcomes, education and job skills training.

- Support the goals outlined in BC's *Skills for Jobs Blueprint* target of 15,000 new Aboriginal workers by 2024 through Aboriginal-led, community-designed and community-driven skills training and employment placements that address unique and practical barriers to training.
- Promote business and entrepreneurship in Aboriginal communities.
- Engage directly with Aboriginal youth, communities and organizations to build capacity through initiatives including governance support, community engagement, short-term work exchanges, job shadowing, human resource development and building youth leadership.
- Support Métis governance and capacity development on a tripartite basis.

Performance Measure 6: Training and Employment

Performance Measure	2016/17 Forecast	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target
Number of Aboriginal people trained and/or employed through skills training initiatives signed and percentage employed	1000 trained 47% employed	1000 trained 48% employed	- 49% employed (from previous ASTDF training)	- 50% employed (from previous ASTDF training)

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

Discussion

Launched in 2015, the Aboriginal Skills Training Development Fund (ASTDF) provides $30 million over three years (2015/16 - 2017/18) in skills-training funding to assist Aboriginal communities in benefiting from the direct and indirect jobs created by the emerging LNG sector. Programs are designed with direction from Aboriginal communities and with collaboration from industry, as well as government and other partners. This performance measure tracks training and employment arising from this foundational funding program. In 2015/16, more than 1,200 Aboriginal people received training through programs supported by the ASTDF and 46% of the people trained found employment. Also, based on signed 2016/17 agreements, another 1,000 people are expected to be trained in 2016/2017. This trend for the number of people trained is expected to continue. Also, the number of people employed is expected to increase incrementally particularly given that comprehensive wrap-around supports are provided to participants for both training and employment components.ASTDF is scheduled to conclude after 2017/18; however, the ministry will continue to work with Aboriginal communities to track employment outcomes resulting from previous ASTDF initiatives.

Goal 2: Continue to reconcile with Aboriginal peoples in British Columbia.

Enhancing reconciliation requires advancing cultural and social outcomes in Aboriginal communities. The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation provides leadership on behalf of the provincial government in establishing culturally respectful relationships that support prosperous and healthy communities. In pursuing social and cultural reconciliation, the Ministry works collaboratively with First Nations, Aboriginal organizations, the federal government, provincial agencies, industry and other partners.

Objective 2.1: Continue to pursue agreements and actions that reconcile provincial interests with the rights including title of First Nations and Aboriginal peoples.

Strategies

- Work with other provinces, territories, the federal government and national Aboriginal organizations to initiate and co-ordinate efforts to address issues of mutual interest.
- Work with partner ministries and agencies, First Nations and First Nations' leaders to understand, clarify and develop solutions to issues involving Aboriginal rights and title.
- Engage with First Nations and Aboriginal leaders and organizations to reach shared goals to improve outcomes in First Nations' communities and increase certainty on the land base.
- Link economic development to long term reconciliation through land transfers for current and future use.
- Continue to seek improvements to treaty making through tripartite processes.

Performance Measure 7: Treaties and related agreements

Performance Measure	2016/17 Forecast	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target
Number of new completed treaties, incremental treaty agreements and agreements in principle.	5	5	5	5

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Discussion

Modern treaties are complex final agreements recognized by the Canadian Constitution that set out rights and obligations for all parties, including land ownership, governance, taxation, financial benefits, environmental management (including wildlife), and any consultation obligations. The Ministry negotiates treaty and treaty-related agreements, and works with the treaty principals to support and enhance the B.C. Treaty Process. There are six-stages in the process. The forecasted and targeted numbers reflect the time and level of complexity it takes to reach advanced stages in the process. This performance measure reflects the ministry's existing capacity to maintain the current

rate of achievement based on the complex nature of negotiations and the implementation of agreements.

Objective 2.2: Work across government, with Aboriginal partners and with the federal and local governments to improve socio-economic outcomes for off-reserve/urban Aboriginal people in British Columbia.

Strategies

- Support partnerships with provincial ministries, Aboriginal organizations and federal and local governments to meet the community-driven priorities of the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan (ORAAP).
- Progress partnerships and engagement strategies that enhance participation in the economy for urban Aboriginal people.
- Support British Columbia's Métis population as a unique demographic by advancing the work set out in the Métis Nation Relationship Accord II, with particular consideration to opportunities for Métis economic development.

Performance Measure 8: Collaborative Engagements (ORAAP)

Performance Measure	2016/17 Forecast	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target
Number of yearly collaborative engagements that involve formal partnership/coordination with other provincial ministries, federal and/or municipal governments and/or Aboriginal partners.	10	10	10	10

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Discussion

Seventy-eight per cent of all Aboriginal people in B.C. live off-reserve. This performance measure captures the work within the context of the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan to improve outcomes for urban/off-reserve Aboriginal people, and the effect of cross-government and stakeholder collaboration. The ORAAP brings together a broad coalition coordinated through a formal partnership with the federal and municipal governments, the B.C. Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres and the Métis Nation of B.C. ORAAP's effectiveness is measured in the ability to leverage key partnerships to establish a collaborative, co-ordinated and holistic approach to improving community-identified socio-economic priorities.

Objective 2.3: Work with Aboriginal communities to jointly identify socio-cultural-economic outcomes that can be met through partnership and collaboration.

Strategies

- Continue to support the First Peoples Cultural Council in advancing innovative approaches to the revitalization of Aboriginal languages and culture.
- With the guidance of the Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women, promote culture-based approaches to violence prevention, awareness and enhancement of victim services for Aboriginal families and communities.
- Work with Aboriginal youth organizations to advance culturally relevant social innovations in business and entrepreneurship, education and other youth-driven priorities.
- Benefit from the cultural and traditional knowledge of Elders by working to highlight the critical roles and contributions of Elders in Aboriginal communities.
- Seek out opportunities to create partnerships between First Nations, industry, education providers and government, and to support dialogues that contribute to positive community outcomes and promote reconciliation.

Resource Summary

Core Business Area	2016/17 Restated Estimates[1]	2017/18 Estimates	2018/19 Plan	2019/20 Plan
Operating Expenses ($000)				
Negotations & Regional Operations	14,097	14,184	14,291	14,291
Strategic Parternships & Initiatives	19,687	21,360	20,930	20,202
Executive & Support Services	5,427	5,346	5,174	4,885
Treaty & Other Agreements Funding	41,949	41,002	41,079	41,422
First Citizens Fund	1,650	1,850	1,850	1,850
First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund	2,962	7,222	7,945	7,874
Total	85,772	90,964	91,269	90,524
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)				
Executive & Support Services	1	1	1	1
Total	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**

[1]For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2016/17 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2017/18 Estimates.

*Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates."

Appendices

Appendix A: Ministry Contact Information

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Appendix B: Hyperlinks to Additional Information

BC Treaty Commission
www.bctreaty.net/index.php

First Peoples' Cultural Council
www.fpcc.ca

Métis Nation Relationship Accord II
http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/aboriginal-people/new-relationship/m-tis-nation-relationship-accord

The New Relationship
http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/DownloadAsset?assetId=BB4532813FA04F17AE624D290DF792AE&filename=new_relationship_accord.pdf

New Relationship Trust
www.newrelationshiptrust.ca/

A list of statutes that fall under the responsibility of the Ministry can be found at:
http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/amr/amr/1712999503